

What is claimed is:

1. (Twice Amended) A device for avoiding sleep disturbances due to noise and other sounds comprising at least one sound-insulating earplug which includes an integrated radio receiver, and means for converting radio signals to audio signals, the improvement comprising:

means for detecting specific snoring sounds; a radio station operatively connected to the means for detecting specific snoring sounds; the radio station being operative to emit, on reception of the specific snoring sounds, a radio signal which is received by the radio receiver and converted to an audio signal.

2. (Twice Amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the radio signal after conversion in the radio receiver represents snoring sounds as an audio signal.

3. (Twice Amended) The device according to claim 1, further including an input mechanism connected to the radio station.

4. (Twice Amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the earplug is made of a material having characteristics of silicone formed to fit in the outer ear, and in that the radio receiver and the means for converting radio signals are integrated with the material.

5. (Twice Amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the means for converting radio signals received from the radio station to audio signals is a diaphragm.

6. (Twice Amended) The device according to claim 3, including means for adjusting the volume of the audio signals.

7. (Twice Amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the means for converting radio signals reproduce the sounds identically.

8. (Twice Amended) The device according to claim 3, characterized in that the input mechanism is connected directly to the radio station.

9. (Twice Amended) The device according to claim 3, characterized in that the input mechanism is integrated in the radio station.

10. (Twice Amended) The device according to claim 3, characterized in that the input mechanism is a clock with an alarm function.

11. (Twice Amended) The device according to claim 3, characterized in that the input mechanism is at least one of a telephone, a doorbell station, a baby monitoring device, and a smoke alarm.

12. (Twice Amended) The device according to claim 3, characterized in that the input mechanism is the receiving part of a movement detector.

13. (Twice Amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the means for detecting sounds is a microphone.

14. (Twice Amended) The device according to claim 3, further including: means for recognizing sounds which is located between the means for detecting sounds and the radio station and by which means for recognizing sounds only certain sounds which can be specified beforehand are transmitted from the radio station to the radio receiver.

15. (Twice Amended) The device according to claim 14, characterized in that the means for recognizing sounds is a hardware-assisted sound recognition system.

16. (Twice Amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the device can be used by several users simultaneously, wherein each user has two sound-insulating earplugs and in at least one of the earplugs is integrated the radio receiver with the means for converting radio signals received from the radio station to audio signals.

17. (Twice Amended) The device according to claim 16, further including: an input mechanism operatively connected to the radio station; means for recognizing sounds arranged between the input mechanism and the radio station;

characterized in that by the means for recognizing sounds picked up, it can be specified beforehand to which user of the device a particular sound is to be transmitted.

18. (New) The device according to claims 3, wherein in that the input mechanism is connected by radio to the radio station.

19. (New) The device according to claim 14, characterized in that the means for recognizing sounds is a software-assisted sound recognition system.

20. (New) The device according to claim 3, wherein the input mechanism includes means for generating an alarm.

21. (New) The device according to claim 3, wherein the input mechanism includes means for picking up further specific sounds.